

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Chair will respond to points of order as they are made.

The gentleman from Louisiana will continue.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the Chair.

Again, Agriculture spending is what we're talking about. But if we're spending excessive money in this Ag appropriations bill, it's going to hurt what we can do to take care of our seniors.

Again, 3,246 seniors in the Louisiana Seventh Congressional District are going to be hurt by this situation. If we look at the SCHIP situation that we're faced with, we're going to have problems with cuts because we don't have money available because of the Agriculture bill.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. DELAURO. Point of order.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. My colleague is supposed to keep his comments to the business at hand before the Committee, not what business the House will consider in the coming days; is that not true, Madam Chair?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman is correct. The Chair has ruled that the gentleman from Louisiana must confine his remarks to the pending question.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the Chair.

Furthermore, as we go forward with a bill that is increasing spending in Agriculture, I have seniors in my district who need motorized wheelchairs, and they may be forced to wait a month or more.

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Again, because of the spending in this bill—

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Chairman.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman yield for a parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. BOUSTANY. No.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Louisiana may continue.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Furthermore, with the spending in this bill, it is going to reduce the amount of time that the government will rent oxygen equipment for seniors to up to 36 months. This is going to be a problem for my seniors. We have got to get control over this spending. The first step here is with the McHenry amendment.

Furthermore, I think if we look at what has happened with agriculture spending, typically, much of the money that has been spent on agriculture doesn't even go to agriculture. It has gone to all kinds of other pet programs.

Madam Chairman, we have to set our priorities straight here.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Chairman, I appreciate very much the recognition.

Madam Chairman, I think that the American people are probably getting a pretty good lesson on the effectiveness, or lack of effectiveness, of this Congress right now. Unfortunately for the institution, the lesson is driving home the poll numbers that show how little regard the American people have for the majority party right now. It is important that we have the opportunity to debate every one of these bills and that we have the opportunity to debate the amendments that are here.

I rise in support of the amendment that my colleague from North Carolina has offered. I think, again, that it is important that we do that. It is also important that we have the ability to tie the amendments that are being offered to this agriculture bill to other issues. The majority party may not want to do that. However, it is very important that we do that, because these appropriations bills are all tied together.

Last year, there was a great hue and cry from the majority party about how much money was being spent by the Republicans, what profligate spenders we were. Now that the Democrats are proposing spending all this money, it is negligible. \$10 million is negligible. \$5 million is negligible. It is insignificant. All kinds of words like that are being used.

When we try to point out the connection between what is happening in this bill and with the amendments that we are offering to things like the SCHIP bill, then the majority party doesn't want us to do that.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. DELAURO. Point of order.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Connecticut will state her point of order.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chairman, the gentlewoman's remarks need to be confined to the Agriculture appropriations bill. The amendment has been accepted, in case the gentlewoman did not know that.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is correct. The gentlewoman from North Carolina must confine her remarks to the pending question.

The gentlewoman will proceed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Chairman.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Does the gentlewoman yield for a parliamentary inquiry?

Ms. FOXX. Yes, I do.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Chairman, isn't it within the rules of the House while debating a pending question to include references to extraneous material?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from North Carolina must maintain an ongoing nexus between

the pending question and any broader policy issues.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. But broader policy issues can be addressed.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. As long as the nexus is maintained.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina may continue.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Chairman, I thank my colleague for seeking the clarification of this. I have been very confused about the majority party not wanting us to talk about the entire budget. This is one piece of an entire budget that this House is going to pass. I don't see how you can possibly say there is no nexus.

Every spending bill in this Chamber is connected to every other spending bill, so how can you possibly say that they are not the same? You passed this huge budget with the largest tax increase in the history of this country. The budget sets the spending. I cannot understand why we can't talk about the budget and every other spending bill that we are going to deal with in conjunction with this spending bill, because they are all tied together.

I would also like to point out to you that I guess while you are trying to speed us along you are raising all these points of order, which is simply slowing down the process. I find that somewhat amusing, too, as we are trying to move the process along.

But it is important that we talk about our rural districts and what the SCHIP program would do to seniors. I have seniors who are going to be hurt by this.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Point of order. Madam Chairman, the gentlelady is engaged in irrelevant debate.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman will suspend.

The gentleman from Illinois will state his point of order.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Chairman, the gentlewoman is engaged in irrelevant debate.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Chairman, I just stated—

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Chairman, I would like a ruling on my point of order.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman will suspend.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina must confine her remarks to the pending question.

The gentlewoman may proceed.

Ms. FOXX. Well, I will say again that we passed one budget in this House that includes the money for all the spending bills. If there is one budget, then it would seem to me that all of the spending bills are tied to each other. Therefore, any spending bill has a connection to every other spending bill. So there is a nexus there, and talking about what is going to happen or what is being proposed in one spending bill is relevant to every other spending bill. I simply don't see how you can separate them.